

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 EA-07 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3553

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: RP, ELAB

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ASIAN REGIONAL LABOR/MANPOWER SEMINAR

REF: (A) STATE 224671

(B) MANILA 13970

FROM SENSER TO LABOR ATTACHE

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH GOP LABOR SECRETARY OPLE ON OCTOBER 7, SENSER OUTLINED ORIGINS OF PROPOSAL FOR A SEMINAR, INCLUDING THE PRIORITY AID PLACES ON THE RURAL POOR, A CONCERN SHARED BY TME ILO AND ITS ASIAN CONSTITUENCY. OPLE RECONFIRMED HIS INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO HELP PLAN IT.

2. OPLE SUGGESTED THAT THE SEMINAR PROGRAM SHOULD BE ACTION-ORIENTED, WITH MAJOR EMPHASIS ON THE SUBJECT OF "LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS," INCLUDING THOSE WHO MIGRATE TO THE CITIES. THIS SUBJECT, HE SAID, COULD BE ADDRESSED THROUGH A PAPER DRAWING TOGETHER MATERIAL FOUND IN EXISTING STUDIES, THROUGH REPORTS ON "SUCCESS STORIES" SUCH AS THAT OF JAPAN AND THROUGH FRANK EXCHANGES ON HOW THIS PROBLEM MIGHT BE SOLVED IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

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3. OPLE FAVORED THE IDEA OF INVITING TWO GOVERNMENT

REPRESENTATIVES PER COUNTY, ONE A KEX LABOR
MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND THE OTHER A COUNTERPART FROM
A MINISTRY INVOLVED DIRECTLY WITH AGRICULTURE. HE
THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD NOT ONLY PROMOTE INTER-
AGENCY COOPERATION BUT MIGHT RESULT IN GREATER
ATTENTION TO THE OVERLOOKED PLIGHT OF RURAL WORKERS.

4. OPLE WAS MUCH INTERESTED IN WHAT IS EXPECTED OF
THE PHILIPPINES, AND SENSER REPLIED ALONG THE LINE
OF REF. (A).OPLE SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT THE GOP
WOULD NOT NEED TO SUPPLY A CONFERENCE SITE. HE
SAID THAT THE ILO HAD FOUND THE PHILIPPINE VILLAGE
HOTEL NEAR THE AIRPORT "SATISFACTORY" AS A
CONFERENCE SITE.

5. THE CONVERSATION REMAINED EXPLORATORY, AND A MORE
DETAILED DIALOGUE WILL BE REQUIRED IN MANILA.

6. COMMENT: OPLE, WHO MADE AN EXCELLENT ADDRESS
TO THE REGIONAL ILO CONFERENCE HERE OCTOBER 6, DOES
NOT SEEM OVERLY EAGER TO TAKE ON ANOTHER CONFERENCE
UNLESS THE AGENDA IS BOTH INTERESTING AND USEFUL,
AN ATTITUDE THAT CAN HELP US PLAN OUR OBJECTIVES
MORE CLEARLY.
PERKINS

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